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6 p.m. news

Announcer (Jill Hannum): There's more news today about the apparently infinitely long arm of the CIA. This time it's reaching into the seemingly unthreatening domain of Queen Elizabeth and Pierre Trudeau. Paz Cohen reports [from Washington, voice feed]:

Paz Cohen: As a result of charges made by a conservative member of Parliament Wednesday -- that the CIA had brought illegal pressure to bear on him and other members of the Canadian government -- the Canadian solicitor-general has ordered the Royal Canadiam Mounted Police to investigate alleged illegal CIA activities in the country, and the makings of a scandal involving the CIA, Internal Revenue Service, Howard Hughes, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Senator Edward Kennedy, Marlon Brando and a huge number of other famous, infamous and as-yet- unheralded persons is beginning to emerge.

The outline of the surface story is this: John Meier (phon) worked for billionaire Howard Hughes for yours, leaving him in 1972. In 1969, while Meier was in Hughes' employ, Sen. Edward Kennedy was to give a speech in Las Vegas, and the CIA allegedly hired a prostitute to seduce Kennedy so the CIA could somehow use the information against him. That story, from a man claiming to be an ex-CIA agent who, for reasons unknown, filed a deposition from Mexico telling the following story: Meier somehow learned of the plan and tipped Kennedy, the story goes, and from then on Meier was watched by the CIA. In 1972 Meier quit as a Hughes assistant and moved to Canada where he applied for landed immigrant status. Hughes filed a suit against Meier, who filed a counter-suit against Hughes for defamation of character. Just before Meier moved to Canada, the man who filed the deposition in Mexico -- a Cuban-born United States citizen named Virginio Gonzalez, was assigned by the CIA to watch Meier, according to Gonzalez' deposition. But Meier had gone to Canada, so Gonzalez says he and Intertel, Hughes' private intelligence agency agreed to work together to locate Meier, and Intertel found him in Vancouver. The CIA meanwhile got hold of some papers stolen from a man in New Mexico and turned them over to the Internal Revenue Service, which then charged Meier with tax evasion. Meanwhile, Gonzalez says, he was working with Canadaian immigration authorities and contacting members of the Canadian Parliament to try and get Meier's application for landed immigrant status denied. The United States and Canada have an agreement that Canada is to be informed of any CIA operatives entering the country. As matters now stand, it appears the proper Canadian authorities were not told about Gonzalez' presence or his work. Last Wednesday a Conservative member of Parliament, John Reynolds, denounced CIA efforts to stop him from working in favor of Meier's landed immigrant petition, and the Canadian solicitor-general ordered an investigation of that and other alleggations of illegal CIA activities in the country.

The State Department here, meanwhile, issued a formal statement yesterday, saying the United States government conducts no intelligence operations in Canada. "Conducts," notice. That applies only to now. And further said, the United States and Canadian intelligence communities carry out only liaison and coordination functions in each other's countries. That is barely a bare outline. There are also charges that the CIA tried to infiltrate the Canadian Indian movement and that the CIA spied on foreign students in a Canadian school. And, Meier had at one point in 1973 been granted immunity by District Court Judge John Sirica to testify before the Senate Select Committy on presidential campaign activities concerning campaign contributions involving Donald Nixon, the former President's

brother, Howard Hughes and Richard Nixon himself. The immunity was granted Meyer at the Select Committees request, but Meyer was never called to testify, although he told his lawyer the information he had was so explosive it would drive Nixon out of the United States and prohibit Hughes from even returning. Meyer later followed Hughes to England, and still later claimed to have explosive information on the CIA as well. All the connections are still foggy, and most confusing of all, right now, is the 108-point deposition filed in Mexico by ~~Virginio Gonzalez~~ Virginio Gonzalez. Why did he file it ? Why did he then contact Meyer and tell him he could incorporate it into his own counter-suit against Hughes ? Did the CIA turn over stolen papers to the Internal Revenue Service ? The Marlon Brando connection is one of the many mentioned in passing in Gonzalez' deposition, and I'll have more on that and the rest of the story soon. This is Paz Cohen, Pacifica Radio, in Washington.

Announcer: The connection between Brando and the CIA was apparently that the agency had considered buying land from Brando, only to decide that he was far too far to the left to be a CIA source, so they dropped the deal.

(end item)

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* Virginio correct. Cohen pronounces Spanish names meticulously and positively. She renders Virginio as Veer-hinio. (No possible confusion with Virgilio).